

ST. JOHN'S GATEWAY, COLCHESTER.



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AMONGST the several remnants of early times to be found in Colchester, Essex, are the remains of St. John's Abbey. The gateway of the abbey represented above is an interesting specimen of flint-inlaying, so to speak, more common in Norfolk: it is of the perpendicular period. The Castle, Trinity Church, and the remains of St. Botolph's priory are the other chief antiquities of the town.

About a mile from Colchester there is a very peculiar water-mill, the property of Earl De Grey, situated picturesquely on the side of a pond called Bourne Pond. From the date, which is clearly visible on the south side, it appears to have been built in the year 1591, by one Thomas Miles. It is of bizarre design, more curious than beautiful. A correspondent (C. H.) says,—It was probably erected for the manufacture of haize, which was at that time a staple article of commerce in Colchester, but has since been converted into a corn-mill, and a small steam-engine attached. The stonework has a peculiar inlaid appearance, owing to the mortar between the interstices of each stone being filled up with small pieces of flint.

THE UNFORTUNATE MARBLE ARCH.

THE suggestion, offered in *THE BUILDER*, that the marble arch, though removed, as it necessarily must be, from its present position, might still be preserved as a grand entrance to the palace, if set up again in another position facing it,—appears to be that at length adopted, to a certain extent, by the Government; but, although they have also in view the idea of placing it so that the avenue leading through it to the palace shall be the central mall in the park, they have not ventured to carry out the main principle of that suggestion—namely, the opening up of such an entrance right through from Charing-cross, although even this had been resolved upon by Lord Lincoln while at the head of the Woods and Forests. Indeed, from a discussion in the Commons on 24th inst. on a vote asked for 14,672*l.* to form a public flower-garden in front of the palace, and an ornamental enclosure, with palisade as formerly, in its more immediate precincts, the whole to be laid out as one design in connection with the re-edification of the arch,—it was stated by Lord Seymour that the central mall would be crossed by the arch, about opposite to Stafford House. The estimate of the whole plan amounts to about 25,000*l.* Of the

14,672*l.* now wanted, 4,000*l.* are for removal of the arch, 6,000*l.* for iron railing, 650*l.* for cost of designs and architect's commission of 5 per cent., 3,500*l.* for ground work of the garden, and 350*l.* for clerk of works' salary. A difference of opinion arose (as well it might) as to the appropriateness of the precise place at which the arch was proposed to be set down, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, admitting that great care ought to be taken to place it in the best possible position, withdrew the proposal, that full time might be given to form a deliberate opinion on the point.

Unless with a view to further removal at some future period, where can be the utility of transferring this hapless structure to the proposed site in front of Stafford House and the Stable-yard?

Why not, now that the late Queen Dowager's stables are no longer of use, finish Carlton-terrace, and make a handsome opening from Trafalgar-square to the park, as often before urged, with the arch for an entrance. This would complete the avenue from Trafalgar-square to the top of Constitution-hill, with a noble architectural design at each end.

The objection to such an arrangement on the score of expense, resolves itself into the